

January 20, 2021

To the BTE Committee:

I am writing this letter to give my highest recommendation for **Taiwo Oyedare**, an applicant to your BTE program. I first met Taiwo in the hallway at Virginia Tech's Blacksburg campus. I was particularly fascinated by Taiwo's story of persistence, dedication and sheer grit in his journey from Nigeria to Blacksburg. He impressed me with his struggle and pursuit of a better life. After losing his father at a very young age, Taiwo managed to recruit mentors who have provided the necessary advice along the way, working with him on this intriguing journey. He has certainly motivated himself to achieve success in his academic career.

I'm a professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering and co-director of the Advanced Research Institute at Virginia Tech, Arlington, Virginia. As an academic, I fully appreciate Taiwo's dedication to excellence and rigor demonstrated in the manner in which he has carried out his research work. Taiwo has worked on numerous research topics in wireless communication. In fact, he received a travel grant to present his findings at the 2019 IEEE Dynamic Spectrum Access Networks (DySPAN) symposium. Because of his dedication to service, Taiwo also volunteered at the IEEE Computer Network Security (CNS) conference in Washington DC two years ago. The IEEE CNS conference is an annual conference that focuses on all things cybersecurity including wireless network security. To combat rising threats in network vulnerabilities, the field of cybersecurity is focused on finding better methods to prevent and mitigate the damage caused by malicious cyberattacks, making the research of individuals such as Taiwo valuable to many sectors of the global economy, including business, military, and healthcare operations.

Taiwo has already developed an impressive presence in the wireless communications research community, with over half a dozen articles appearing in major conference proceedings and industry journals over the past several years. These include proceedings of the IEEE Dynamic Spectrum Access Networks (DySPAN) symposium, International Conference on Wired/Wireless Internet Communication as well as the IEEE Consumer Communications & Networking Conference, in addition to journals such as Communications and Network, Innovative Systems Design and Engineering, and a book chapter requested by Wiley. The frequent appearance of Taiwo's work in such conferences is indicative of the innovative nature of his findings. Furthermore, his research has also been extensively cited, with Google Scholar recording at least 54 citations of his work. This record reflects the significant influence and reach of Taiwo's accomplishments.

Invent the Future

I am impressed with Taiwo's extraordinary way of relating with students and building rapport based on mutual respect. I have observed his unique way of managing his teaching assistantship duties, research work and course work. Many of his students have expressed profound appreciation of his talents as a teaching assistant. Even though his academic achievements are outstanding, it is his professional acumen that clearly distinguishes him from his peers. He inspires others with his friendly demeanor and positive attitude. His background in systems engineering has resulted in a highly holistic approach to his research endeavor. His ongoing contributions to his research area have been critical in maintaining the integrity of wireless communication systems.

In addition to Taiwo's academic activities, I am also aware of his extra-curricular activities such as teaching and mentoring middle school students at his home church. Taiwo volunteers on a weekly basis to help teach these middle schoolers biblical principles of honesty, hard work, diligence and conscientiousness. Taiwo's impact in his community can also be seen in his dedication to ensure that international students understand how to navigate the immigration process. Taiwo has given several presentations on how he was able to qualify for the EB2 National Interest Waiver program through which he became a permanent resident of the United States even before completing his PhD program. I believe that you will agree with me that not only do these qualities set Taiwo apart, but they also show his determination and commitment to helping people.

Given the extent of his successes so far, it is reasonable to expect that his future work will be of at least equal merit. His approach to securing wireless networks is not just highly innovative but also in fact unique, making his professional insight and skills much sought-after within the field. Being an African American professor, I understand the need for mentoring students of color to become faculty members. I believe there's a pressing need to also mentor people like Taiwo who would carry the torch and influence the younger generation of black students to continue to strive for unparalleled success. Given his impressive background and career goals, I hope that his application would receive the most favorable outcome.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul A. [unclear]". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.